

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CPR-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 SP-02 /030 W

-----121646 281424Z /43

O 281130Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6961

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 11264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, PDIP

SUBJECT: US ATTENDANCE AT MOBUTU'S INAUGURATION

REF: KINSHASA 11234

1. SOUNDINGS HERE INDICATE THAT IN ADDITION TO MOST OR ALL AFRICAN STATES, ONLY BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY AND US HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS FOR THEIR CHIEFS OF STATE TO ATTEND MOBUTU'S INAUGURATION. MOST OF AFRICANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE REPRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL OR HIGHER. MY FRENCH, BELGIAN AND GERMAN COLLEAGUES ARE RECOMMENDING THAT THEIR CHIEFS OF STATE BE REPRESENTED BY PERSONAL EMISSARIES TO ATTEND CEREMONIES AND DELIVER APPROPRIATE MESSAGE. THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT LEVEL EMISSARIES MAY BE, BUT BELGIANS AND FRENCH AT LEAST WILL PROBABLY SHOOT FAIRLY HIGH.

2. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A SUITABLY HIGH-LEVEL PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER BE SENT TO KINSHASA TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION ON DECEMBER 5. SUCH A GESTURE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO THE LARGE INTERESTS AND CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS WE HAVE WITH ZAIRE, AND COULD BE SEEN AS ANOTHER MARK OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MOBUTU TO PURSUE THE DIFFICULT, IMPORTANT REFORMS TO WHICH HE IS COMMITTED. WHILE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE REFORMS TO DATE IS AT BEST IMPERFECT, I BLEIEVE ENOUGH PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TO WARRANT OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

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3. THE GOZ HAS SET DECEMBER 2 AS THE DATE FOR THE NATIONWIDE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (REFERENDUM), FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S NOMINATION BY THE PARTY CONGRESS LAST WEEKEND. NO DETAILS HAVE YET BEEN ANNOUNCED REGARDING THE PROGRAM FOR THE INAUGURATION, WHICH COULD INCLUDE SOME ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES BEFORE OR AFTER DECEMBER 5.

WILL ADVISE AS PROGRAM BECOMES KNOWN.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA11264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770440-0029
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771114/aaaaalie.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 11234
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 435177
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US ATTENDANCE AT MOBUTU'S INAUGURATION
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ababe10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009